

Abstract

5 The present invention relates to an electronic
database search engine comprising an electronic memory
device suitable for storing and releasing elements from
the database, a display unit, a user interface for
selecting and displaying at least one element from the
database on the display unit, and control means for
controlling the user interface, which user interface
10 allocates icons to the elements of the database, which
icons are suitable for display on the display unit at
mutual distances that depend on the elements' degree of
dissimilarity, wherein the user interface at initial
utilization displays at least some icons on the display
15 unit. With the control means any arbitrary position can
be selected on the display unit and, depending on the
control means, the user interface displays or removes an
icon that relates to an element of the database and of
which degree of dissimilarity, in respect of the elements
20 whose corresponding icons are displayed elsewhere on the
display unit, corresponds with the distance taken up by
the selected position in relation to the icons displayed
elsewhere on the display unit.

Patented in the U.S.A.